
Charlie Simpson, Chief

Matt Scharper, Deputy Chief

Direction and Control of the Search Function – “Winter SAR Operations”

WINTER SEARCH MANAGEMENT SEARCH AND RESCUE COURSE

**Sequoia / Kings Canyon National Park
January 26th –30th, 2009**

“Direction and Control of the Search Function - Winter SAR Operations” is a 5-Day, 40-hour POST approved classroom and field instruction course with trained, professional, experienced instructors. The course is designed by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services-Law Enforcement Branch for search and rescue coordinators in agencies that may need to conduct a search and rescue mission during severe winter conditions. The course is directed toward search and rescue coordinators, their alternates, team leaders and others having those management responsibilities.

Course objectives include:

- How to properly manage a winter search.
- Understand the importance of the Winter Search Pre-plan.
- Identification and utilization of winter resources; discuss their functions and limitations.
- Special considerations for cold weather operations.
- Understanding cold weather medical injuries and hypothermia.
- The selection of mountain backpacks, contents, and personal clothing.
- Identify key factors in avalanche rescue.
- Utilization of aircraft in winter operations.
- Winter ground search mobility (Nordic skiing, snow shoeing, special equipment, etc.).
- Personal survival in “winter” conditions (sheltering).

WHEN: January 26 – 30, 2009.
You should arrive in the afternoon/evening of January 25th to check in and get settled.
Class will begin at 0800 on Monday, January 26th.

WHERE: Sequoia / Kings Canyon National Park – Lodgepole Visitors Center

DATE and TIME

January 26 – January 30, 2009
0800 – (ending time varies)

CONFERENCE LOCATION

Lodgepole Visitors Center

LODGING

Wuksachi Lodge
64740 Wuksachi Way
Sequoia National Park, CA 93262
Reservations – 559-253-5680 Ask for Darren Walters

Entrance to the park is free with proper identification and a copy of your course acceptance letter. A block of rooms is being held for attendees beginning Sunday January 25th, at the state rate of \$84.00 plus 10% tax, per person, per night. One nights deposit will be charged to you at the time you make your reservation. Due to limited room availability, you may be asked to share a room with a fellow course attendee. To make your reservation, please contact **Darren Walters at 559-253-5680**. Advise him you are reserving one of the rooms for the **OES Training**. **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY DECEMBER 12 TO OBTAIN RATE. AFTER THIS DATE, ROOM RATES WILL BE \$91.00 PER NIGHT PER PERSON.** If you would like to bring a RV or trailer, camping is available at the Lodgepole Campground at no charge. Please contact Tonya Bagwill to reserve a space. For further information regarding this course, please contact Tonya Bagwill at 916-845-8706.

Directions: See attached map. Lodgepole Visitors Center is located off the Generals Highway, 2 miles South of Wuksachi Lodge. There is no physical address, but there are many road side signs that will direct you to the location.

COURSE REGISTRATION: Enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis when applications are received by our office. Applicants should register as soon as possible since class size is limited. **Telephone registration will not be accepted.** After receiving your application you will receive an email confirmation of your acceptance into the course and further instructions, if necessary.

TO REGISTER BY INTERNET (preferred)

Go to www.oes.ca.gov, from left menu select Law Enforcement and Victim Services, select Law Enforcement Branch, select Training from right side menu. Select Student Requirements/Application, complete application form and click on submit.

TO REGISTER BY FAX

Complete the online application form, print and fax to OES, Law Enforcement Branch at (916) 845-8314 Attention Tonya Bagwill.

This course is certified by the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) under Plan IV for full-time, regular law enforcement officers. Each student receives a manual, shoulder patch, lapel pin and a certificate upon course completion.

Winter SAR Management Clothing & Equipment List

CLOTHING (Layering essential to comfort and survival)

ABSOLUTLY NO COTTON!

1st Layer: Against the body “Underwear”, Head to toes! (Won’t Change)

- *Lightweight wicking/insulating underwear, long johns, liner socks, cap liner, glove/mitten liners, etc. Synthetics - Polypropylene, Capilene, Thermax, Polarmax, or equivalent or wool or silk.*

2nd Layer: Insulating Layer (Add or subtract as needed to regulate warmth)

- **TORSO:** *Wool or Synthetic – Fleece or pile jacket/sweater, insulated coat, vest, etc. Down okay but must use caution to avoid getting wet – Loses insulating ability.*
- **LEGS:** *Wool or Synthetic –Fleece pants, pile pants, wool pants, insulated pants, etc. (Again, down okay but use caution to avoid getting wet.)*
- **HEAD/NECK:** *Wool or Synthetic – Fleece/pile hat, cap, beanie, balaclava, neck gator, scarf, etc.*
- **FEET:** *Wool or Synthetic, mid to heavyweight socks (depending on intended footwear insulation).*
- **HANDS:** *Wool or Synthetic fleece liner gloves/mittens.*

3rd Layer: Outer Layer, protection from the environment – “Shell” (Won’t Change)

Wool is okay as an outer garment but it is not true “shell” protection. It will become saturated and heavy with moisture (maintains its insulating ability when wet, but is not windproof).

- **TORSO:** *Windproof / Waterproof shell parka/jacket preferably that breathes (Gore Tex or equivalent) and/or allows for venting during physical exertion, with attached hood. (Avoid insulated parkas/jackets as they make it difficult to regulate warmth – “Layering”.)*
- **LEGS:** *Windproof / Waterproof shell pants / powder pants preferably breathable (Gore Tex or equivalent). Windproof / Waterproof Gaiters to keep snow and moisture out of your boots.*
- **HEAD/NECK:** *Windproof / Waterproof cap, rain hat or the hood on the shell parka/jacket.*
- **FEET:** *Waterproof or waterproofed leather, leather/rubber combination, or thermoplastic mid to heavyweight quality hiking boots, ski boots, snow boots (Sorrel) that are large enough to allow layers of insulating socks. Insulated or fleece booties recommended for sleeping.*
- **HANDS:** *Windproof / Waterproof shell gloves/mittens or lightly insulated gloves/mittens.*

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

(Know your gear and make sure it works!)

Backpack: Internal or external frame capable of carrying and supporting extra clothing and gear required for the winter environment. *(Should fasten to your body in such manner that it moves with your body.)*

Tent: *(4-Season preferred)* or Bivy Sack or Shelter Material for Snow Cave/Trench

Ground Cloth: Space blanket or ground cloth equivalent

Sleeping Bag: Winter weight “down” or synthetic *(No Cotton Bags)*

Sleeping Bag Pad: A minimum of two (2) to insulate body from the snow.

(Closed cell foam to not absorb moisture – “Ensolite”, etc. Or, “Thermarest”)

Lighting: Head lamp and/or flashlight with extra batteries. Back packers’ candle/candle lantern for camp *(candles are good for 6 hrs.)*

Fire Starter: Matches/Lighter *(Waterproof)*

Cooking: Stove, fuel, cooking kit, eating utensils. *(White gas stoves work best at altitudes and in the extreme cold.)*

Water: A minimum of 2 quarts per person *(Insulate your water bottles to keep them from freezing, especially at night while sleeping)*

Food: For a dinner and a breakfast meal: Freeze-dried or dehydrated for light weight *(whatever suits your taste)*

Snacks: For the trail, high carbohydrates, that does not require cooking

Beverage mix as desired *(Coffee, Tea, Cider, Cocoa, etc.)*

First Aid Kit: Personal & comfort kit *(toilet paper, sunscreen, lip balm, etc.)*

Eye Protection: Sunglasses *(with Lanyard)*, goggles or glacier glasses *(100% UV protection mandatory during snow work.)*

Navigation: Map and Compass and/or GPS, etc.

Signaling Device: Whistle, signal mirror, flagging tape, etc.

Travel Aid: X-Country skis and poles (wax-less, metal-edged mountaineering skis with heavy duty mountaineering bindings, 3 pin, cable, etc. – avoid lightweight track skis) and/or snowshoes and poles

Snow Shovel: Avalanche shovel or grain scoop *(no “entrenching tools”)*

Nylon Cord: *(Utility for sheltering, equipment repair, ski climbing skins, etc.)*

Warmth: Disposable hand/toe warmer packs for unbearably cold fingers/toes

Other: Whatever you desire as a necessity for your own comfort and “SURVIVAL”!